

Book-in-Common Essay Contest 2011

The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates

Wes Moore writes in *The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates*, “And when I finish my story, the question that comes up the most is the one that initiated this quest: ‘What made the difference?’ And the truth is that I don’t know. The answer is elusive. ... There is no one thing that leads people to move in one direction or another. I think the best we can do is give our young people a chance to make the best decisions possible by providing them with the information and the tools and the support they need,” (pg. 179).

Your written reflection should respond to the following:

*Wes notes that he cannot give one, central explanation as to why their paths drastically diverged. What do you think are the events, people, choices, or learning experiences that made the most significant difference in the divergent lives of the Wes Moores, and what **information** do you base this claim on?*

Wes concludes by saying that young people need to be given information, tools and support to make the best decisions possible. Thinking about your own life, what information, tools or support have helped you make the best decisions? What do you still need to put into place to help you move in the right direction?

Here are some tips to help guide you through the process:

Be brief: Your essay can be no longer than **1,500 words**.

Be personal: Parts of your essay will be about you; speak in the first person. Edit it and simplify it until you find the words, tone, and story that truly echo your style.

Be specific: Don’t forget to provide specific examples from the book and from your own experience to illustrate your points.

Guidelines for Entry

All entries must have a cover sheet with your name, essay title, student ID, U of L email, and phone number.

Format for your essay is: double-spaced, 1 inch margins, Times New Roman font, on 8 ½” X 11” white paper.

Do not include your name on the body of your submission, as judging will be anonymous.

Deadline for submissions is Friday, November 18th by 5:00 PM.

Make it original. The essay must be an entirely original work by the student.

Submit entries by the deadline to:

- In person – Attn: Office of First Year Initiatives, Strickler Hall, Rm. 126, (REACH Welcome Ctr.)
- Electronically – Email firstyear@louisville.edu and attach your submission as a Word document. Do not paste entries into the email text.

One **first year** student winner will receive a \$100 scholarship*.

The winner will be announced and the scholarship awarded in the Spring 2012 semester.

*Scholarship will be processed through the Financial Aid Office, per University of Louisville Policy.